



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

M I C H I G A N

EDUCATING AND ADVOCATING FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

May 17, 2016

Members of the House Judiciary Committee

The League of Women Voters of Michigan is proud to support HJR GG, the bill to add the equal rights amendment to the Michigan Constitution. Thank you for holding a hearing on this important legislation.

The simple amendment is imperative: "No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws; nor shall any person be denied the enjoyment of his civil or political rights or be discriminated against in the exercise thereof because of SEX, religion, race, color or national origin."

Throughout Michigan's history our laws have been evolving and becoming more inclusive. However, the fact that "sex" is not part of the protected groups in the Michigan Constitution is deplorable.

The League is well aware of the controversy the Equal Rights Amendment has faced since it was first drafted in 1923, shortly after women were granted the right to vote and the League of Women Voters was founded. We have worked for almost 100 years to get the amendment added to the U.S. Constitution.

Discrimination based on sex still continues in our society. By supporting HJR GG you could help end sex discrimination in Michigan. Over 20 other states have done this. The League supports equal rights for all under state and federal laws.

In 1918, Michigan voters approved a state constitutional amendment to grant women the full right to vote two years before the 19th amendment was added to the U.S. Constitution. Let's be a leader again.

As former First Lady Betty Ford, said "I believe the equal rights amendment is a necessity of life for all citizens."

The League of Women Voters of Michigan urges you to support HJR GG.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Judy Karandjeff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Judy" and last name "Karandjeff" clearly visible.

Judy Karandjeff
President